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MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE



HERE
LIES
HE-MAN



a **STAR**™ comics presentation

WHEN PRINCE ADAM HOLDS ALOFT HIS SWORD AND SAYS, "BY THE POWER OF GREYSKULL!", HE BECOMES HE-MAN. HE POSSESSES THE STRENGTH OF A THOUSAND MEN AND HIS POWER IS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS WISDOM. ONLY THREE OTHERS SHARE THE SECRET OF THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE: THE SORCERESS, MAN-AT-ARMS, AND ORKO. ON THE WORLD OF ETERNIA THEY BATTLE THE FORCES OF EVIL TO DECIDE WHO WILL BE THE...

UNLESS YOU HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY AND A VERY LARGE SPACE ROOM, YOU WON'T BE PLAYING THIS GAME GRAY BALL.

AS IT HAPPENS, THE ROYAL PALACE OF ETERNIA HAS BOTH...

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

LET
FEE-
T-
I-
M-
E

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CRAIG ANDERSON

EXCUSE ME,
YOUR HIGHNESSES!
I MUST SPEAK
WITH ADAM!

MAYBE WE
SHOULD COME
BACK LATER! THEY
LOOK KINDA BUSY!

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WE ARE NEVER TOO BUSY TO CARE FOR THE BUSINESS OF THE KINGDOM, CRINGER!

GRAVITY RETURNING TO NORMAL

THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE!

THERE'S A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES YOUR "SPECIAL ATTENTION," ADAM!

DOES IT HAVE TO BE NOW, DUNCAN? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FATHER AND I HAVE SPENT TOGETHER IN WEEKS!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SON! YOU GO AHEAD! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU TAKING AN INTEREST IN AFFAIRS OF STATE.

COULD WE FINISH OUR GAME LATER, FATHER?

I'D LOVE TO, SON-- IF I COULD FIND THE TIME. I HAVE MANY DUTIES THIS AFTERNOON.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET TOGETHER SOON, ADAM!

YEAH... SURE...

I'M SORRY, ADAM, BUT HE-MAN IS NEEDED!

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH! SRRRR!

WHERE'S MY SWORD?

ISN'T IT A LITTLE CROWDED IN HERE?

BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL!

RROWNER!

I HAVE THE POWER!!

UH-- BATTLE CAT-- CAN YOU TAKE YOUR PAW OUT OF MY FACE, PLEASE?

SORRY

LATER...

HE-MAN! YOU JUST MISSED ALL THE EXCITEMENT!

THE SNAKE MEN TRIED TO KIDNAP THE KING! FORTUNATELY, RIO BLAST AND MY PALACE GUARDS WERE HERE TO STOP THEM!

HE-MAN, HAVE YOU SEEN PRINCE ADAM? HE RAN OFF IN THE CONFUSION!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ADAM, LIEUTENANT ANDRA, HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO GET AWAY WHEN TROUBLE STARTS.

HE-MAN, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE A TALK WITH HIM? I DO WISH HE'D SHOW A LITTLE MORE COURAGE!

WHY CAN'T HE BE MORE LIKE YOU?

LATER...

I TELL YOU, DUNCAN, I'VE HAD IT! HE-MAN IS RUINING MY LIFE!

BUT, ADAM, YOU ARE HE-MAN!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAVE TO GIVE UP ALL THE THINGS THAT I WANT TO DO! I HAVE TO GO AROUND MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF! MY OWN FATHER IS ASHAMED OF ME!

ADAM... I KNOW KEEPING YOUR SECRET ISN'T EASY! BUT IT'S NECESSARY! IF YOUR TRUE IDENTITY WERE KNOWN, YOUR ENEMIES WOULD THREATEN YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO STOP YOU!

IT'S ALSO A TREMENDOUS TACTICAL ADVANTAGE! YOU CAN GO PLACES WHERE HE-MAN WOULD ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION. WHEN YOU BECOME HE-MAN, WE GAIN THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!



ADAM, YOU ARE HE-MAN, AND YOU ARE NEEDED!

WHY ME? WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE ME?

"HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO FIGHT SKELETOR? WHEN I FIRST STARTED OUT, HE-MAN WAS THE ONLY ONE TO DEFEND ETERNIA, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT NOW! WE HAVE A WHOLE BAND OF HEROES!"

"HE-MAN ISN'T NEEDED ANYMORE! EVERYONE IS TOO DEPENDENT ON ME. CLAMP CHAMP HANDLED THAT ATTACK YESTERDAY. LIVES WERE ENDANGERED BECAUSE NOBODY THOUGHT TO CALL ANY-ONE BUT HE-MAN!"



"I THINK ETERNIA WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME AND I KNOW I'D BE BETTER OFF JUST BEING PRINCE ADAM!"

NO, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE! HE-MAN WILL ALWAYS BE NEEDED! HE-MAN IS MORE THAN JUST A WARRIOR! HE'S A SYMBOL OF HOPE AND COURAGE FOR ALL ETERNIA!

DON'T YOU THINK I'VE SAID THAT TO MYSELF A HUNDRED TIMES? I'M JUST NOT SURE ANYMORE!

THINGS ARE SO CLEAR WHEN I'M HE-MAN! HE-MAN! THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE! HE NEVER MAKES MISTAKES. HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT TO DO!



SOMETIMES, IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE REALLY TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE! I'M TIRED OF PUSHING MY LIFE ASIDE! I'M TIRED OF HE-MAN GETTING ALL THE CREDIT! I'M TIRED OF PRETENDING I'M A COWARD

AND I'M TIRED OF RUNNING!



ADAM, YOU MUST REMEMBER YOUR DUTY! HE-MAN'S POWER IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY! THE MOST IMPORTANT ON ETERNIA!

DUTY! RESPONSIBILITY! HAVEN'T I DONE ENOUGH? HAVEN'T I FOUGHT LONG ENOUGH TO EARN A BREAK? CAN'T I LIVE MY OWN LIFE NOW?

IT'S NOT "I HAVE THE POWER!"

NOW "THE POWER HAS ME!"



I'VE GOT TO START LIVING MY LIFE! I'VE GOT TO MAKE PEOPLE RESPECT PRINCE ADAM, NOT JUST HE-MAN!

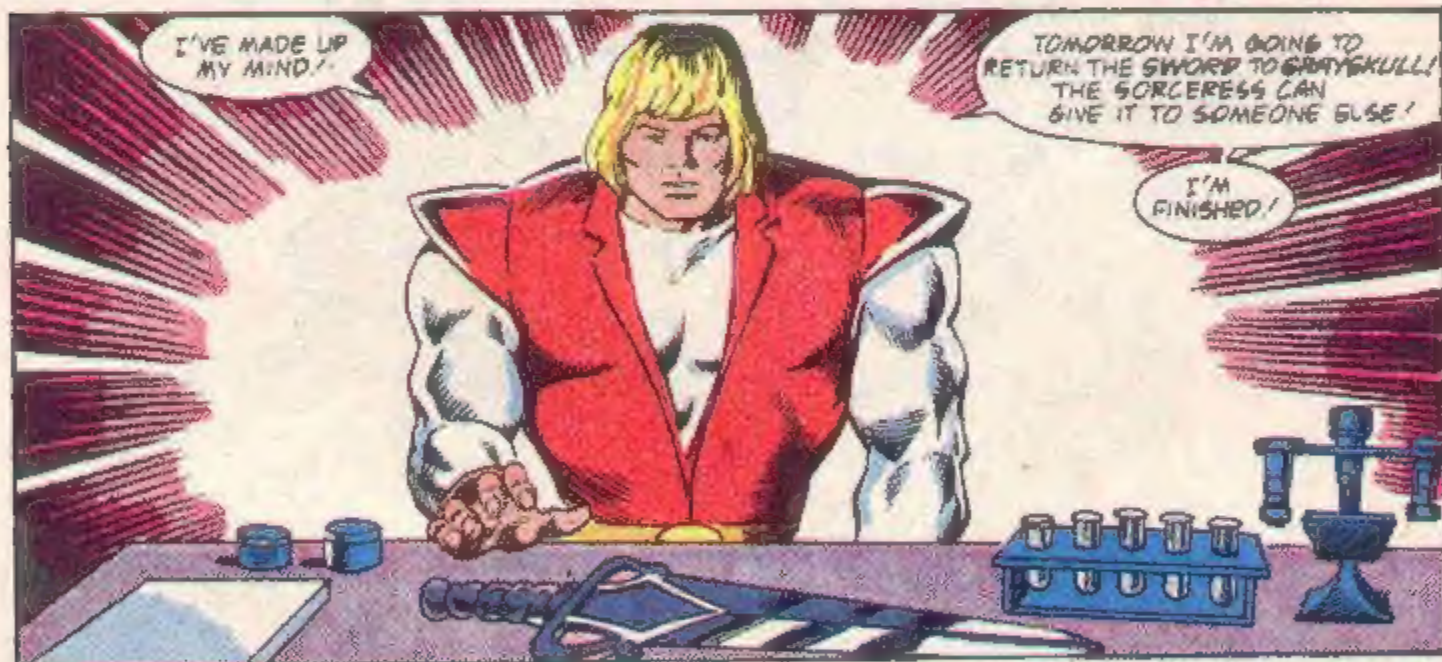


ADAM, PLEASE...

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!

TOMORROW I'M GOING TO RETURN THE SWORD TO GRAYSKULL! THE SORCERESS CAN GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE!

I'M FINISHED!



IT'S OVER, DUNCAN!

ADAM, WAIT!



ADAM!!



ADAM! HELP! AAARRRRGH!



SKELETOR!!

HOW PERCEPTIVE
OF YOU, PRINCE!

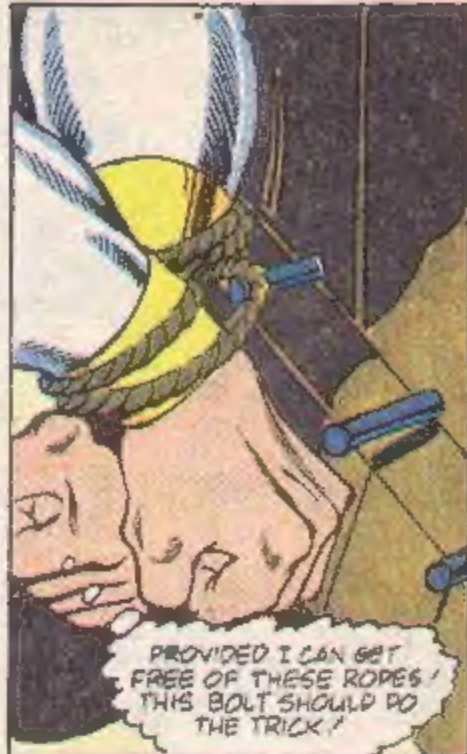
MY SWORD!
I CAN'T
REACH IT!

SURRENDER
TO ME! OR
MAN-AT-ARMS
PAYS THE PRICE!

AH, PRINCE ADAM, I'M SO HAPPY THAT
YOU COULD FIND THE TIME TO BE
HERE TODAY!

NOW YOU'LL
WITNESS MY
ULTIMATE
TRIUMPH
OVER
HE-MAN!

BIG TALK, BONE
BRAIN! HE-MAN HAS
BEATEN YOU BEFORE
AND HE'LL BEAT
YOU AGAIN!



PROVIDED I CAN GET
FREE OF THESE ROPES!
THIS BOLT SHOULD DO
THE TRICK!

BRAVE WORDS! LET'S
SEE IF YOU STILL HAVE
THEM AFTER I DO
THIS!

TER!

NOW, WHEN
HE-MAN COMES TO
RESCUE YOU...AS I'M
SURE HE WILL...HIS
BRAINWAVES WILL
CAUSE MY TIME BOMB
TO ACTIVATE!

TEN SECONDS LATER, IT'S ENERGY
FIELD WILL BLAST HE-MAN INTO
THE DISTANT FUTURE AND OUT OF
MY HAIR FOREVER!

HEY!
WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?

MY BRAINWAVES MUST BE THE
SAME AS HE-MAN'S! THE BOMB
IS ACTIVATED! NOW!

HE-MAN WON'T BE ABLE TO
MAKE IT, SKELETOR! LOOKS
LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE
FUN WITHOUT HIM!

GET THE
POINT?

YOU FOOL!
YOU'LL UNLEASH
FORCES BEYOND
IMAGINATION!

KRAKOW!

W-WHAT
HAPPENED?

MY
SWORD!

YOUR SWORD? WHAT
ABOUT MY BOMB? THAT
MISERABLE PIECE OF
SCRAP METAL MUST HAVE
SHORT-CIRCUITED IT!

AARRGGH!!
I WANTED TO SEND
HE-MAN INTO THE
FUTURE, NOT YOUR
WORTHLESS SWORD!

THAT BOMB WAS
ONE-OF-A-KIND! I MAY
NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLACE IT!
I'LL GET EVEN
WITH YOU FOR
THIS, YOU
ROYAL DO-
GOODER! I
PROMISE
YOU!

Uhhhh! WHAT
HAPPENED?

SKELETOR
KNOCKED YOU
OUT! WE HAD A
LITTLE RUN-
IN AND...

MY SWORD
WAS LOST!

WHAT?
HOW?

I USED THE SWORD TO DESTROY
ONE OF SKELETOR'S WEAPONS!
NOW THE SWORD AND WEAPON
HAVE VANISHED THROUGH
THAT SPACE WARP... INTO
THE FUTURE!!

I WANTED TO STOP
BEING HE-MAN! WELL,
NOW I'VE GOT MY WISH!
WITHOUT THE SWORD, I'LL
NEVER BE HE-MAN
AGAIN!

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, YET!
MY DIMENSIONAL EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM CAN
FOLLOW A TRAIL OF
ENERGY ACROSS SPACE
AND TIME.

THERE!
ACCORDING TO THE
AMOUNT OF TRANS-
CHRONO-ENERGY BEING
GIVEN OFF BY THAT...
"WORM HOLE" IN THE
SPACE/TIME FABRIC...

...YOUR SWORD HAS
BEEN SENT THIRTY
YEARS INTO THE
FUTURE!!

MINUTES LATER...

ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO GO
THIS ALONE,
ADAM?

I HAVE TO! EVEN IF I NEVER
BECOME HE-MAN AGAIN, I OWE IT
TO THE SORCERESS TO FIND THE
POWER SWORD AND RETURN
IT TO GRAYSKULL.

VERY WELL! THIS INTERFACE DEVICE
WILL FOCUS THE POWER OF MY TELEPORTER
THROUGH THE "WORM HOLE." I'M SENDING
YOU THROUGH TIME SO THAT YOU ARRIVE A
FEW MINUTES AHEAD OF THE SWORD.

TAKE THIS HOMING DEVICE
AND GUARD IT WITH YOUR
LIFE. WITHOUT IT, YOU
MAY NEVER GET
BACK!

DUNCAN, I KNOW THAT YOU
DON'T AGREE WITH ME,
BUT I --

LET IT LIE, ADAM.
YOU MUST DO WHAT
YOU FEEL IS RIGHT,
OF COURSE...

I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T
LIVE TO REGRET YOUR
DECISION!

READY?

READY!

HMMMMMM

HUH? I FELT DIZZY FOR A
SECOND THERE, BUT I'M
STILL IN THE CHAMBER!

WORKSHOP OF
THE TRAITOR
MAN-AT-ARMS
AS IT WAS
BEFORE
THE CONQUEST
OF SKELETOR
THE GREAT

SKELETOR
THE GREAT IS
WATCHING
YOU!
AREN'T YOU
GLAD?

HEY, DUNCAN?
WHERE'D YOU GO?
I'M STILL HERE!
I DIDN'T GO INTO
THE FUTURE!

PALACE GUARDS! EXCUSE ME! HAVE YOU MEN SEEN MAN-AT-ARMS?

MAN-AT-ARMS? HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE! EVERYONE KNOWS MAN-AT-ARMS HAS BEEN DEAD FOR THIRTY YEARS NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY? THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!

LISTEN, YOU TWO, I'M PRINCE ADAM!

MY SWORD IS ARRIVING FROM THE PAST. THAT MEANS I AM IN THE FUTURE!

GOT TO REACH...

IT APPEARS WE HAVE A REGULAR COMEDIAN HERE! THIS STUN BEAM SHOULD TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM!

AAARRGH!

NO! MY SWORD!

BY... THE... POWER...

FIRST MAN-AT-ARMS, THEN PRINCE ADAM. WHAT DO YOU THINK? SOME KIND OF NUT?!

WHO CARES? LOAD HIM ONTO THE SHUTTLE FOR PRISON MOUNTAIN!

THIS SWORD SEEMS KIND OF UNUSUAL, POPPING OUT OF THIN AIR LIKE THAT. GENERAL BLADE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN IT. WE'LL SEND IT TO CASTLE SKELETOR!

CASTLE SKELETOR?

OHAAAAH... MY FOOT
HEAD... WHERE
AM I?



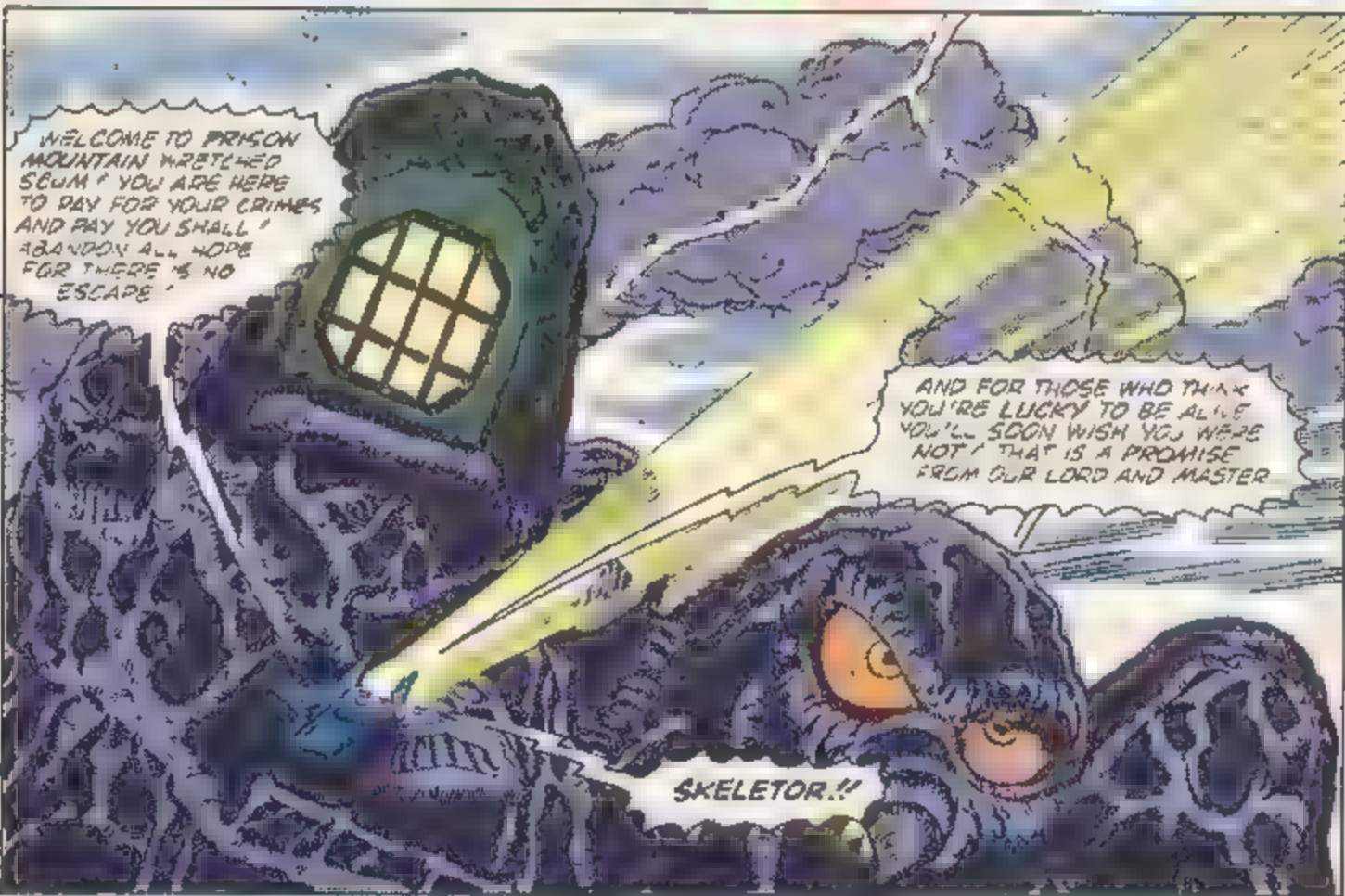
YOU'LL SOON
END OUT! AND
WISH YOU
HADN'T!



WELCOME TO PRISON
MOUNTAIN WRETCHED
SCUM! YOU ARE HERE
TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES
AND PAY YOU SHALL!
ABANDON ALL HOPE
FOR THERE'S NO
ESCAPE!

AND FOR THOSE WHO THINK
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE
YOU'LL SOON WISH YOU WERE
NOT! THAT IS A PROMISE
FROM OUR LORD AND MASTER

SKELETOR!!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT CRIME HAVE WE
COMMITTED?

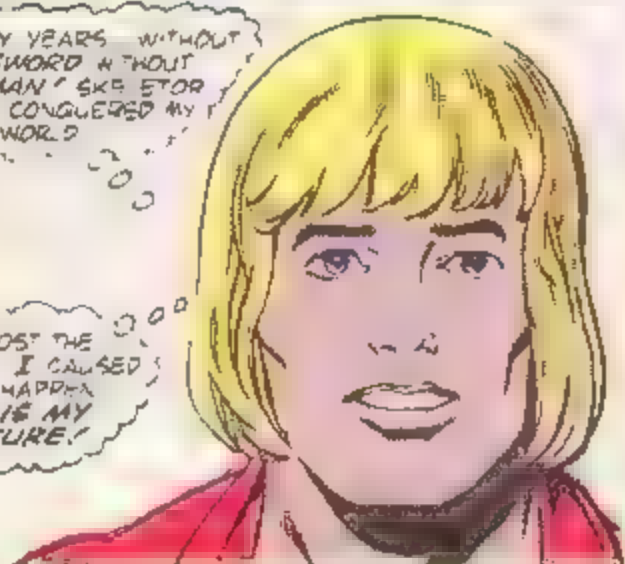
DOES IT MATTER?
TO HAVE A SINGLE FREE
THOUGHT IS ALL THE CRIME YOU
NEED COMMIT ON ETERNITY!
SKELETOR HAS --

SILENCE YOU
REBEL SCUM!

A FEW DAYS IN THE PRISON MINE
WILL BREAK YOUR DEFIANCE!

THIRTY YEARS WITHOUT
THE SWORD WITHOUT
ME-MAN! SKELETOR
HAS CONQUERED MY
WORLD

I OBTAINED THE
SWORD I CAUSED
IT TO HAPPEN
THIS IS MY
FUTURE!





EVERYONE KNOWS HOW SKELETOR CONQUERED ETERNIA! THIRTY YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A MAD SKELETOR ATTACKED THE OLD CASTLE GRAYSKULL. THEY SAY HE HAD THE COSMIC KEY! NOTHING COULD STOP HIM!

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE FORCES OF GOOD? WHY DIDN'T THEY STOP HIM?

WHAT COULD THEY DO? WITHOUT (Shudder) THE MAN TO LEAD THEM?

YOU WORK HARD AND HAVE SOME MEAT ON YOUR BONES! NOT LIKE THESE OTHER SCARECROWS! COME WITH ME, WE'LL FIND YOU SOME REAL WORK!

NOW CAN WE WORK ON THIS YOU H PRED?

I'M SORRY - HERE - MORE

I'VE GOT TO FIND A ONE WITH THE M J. I CAN FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!

IT'S NO BETTER ON THE OUTSIDE IN THE LABOR CAMPS

THEY'LL STARVE IN THE EVERGREEN FOREST LAND AGAIN THIS WINTER!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I TRIED TO STOP THEM FROM TAKING MY CHILD!

LORD SKELETOR'S "EDUCATION PLAN" ETERNIA'S CHILDREN ARE TAKEN TO SCHOOLS WHERE THEY ARE BRAIN-WASHED INTO HIS SERVICE!

IF YOU WANT A PICTURE OF THE FUTURE... IMAGINE SKELETOR'S BOOT

STEPPING ON A HUMAN FACE... FOREVER!

STILL DEERIES OF THE FOUR PRISON

I'VE NEVER BEEN
IN THIS PART OF THE
DUNGEON BEFORE...

NO... IT CAN'T BE!

MOTHER!
FATHER!

IT'S ME!
ADAM

BEGONE YOU FEND!
HOW DARE YOU COME
HERE IMPERSONATING
MY SON! WE WON'T
BE FOOLED BY
SKELETOR'S
TRICKS!

GET
AWAY FROM
ME!

MOTHER! PLEASE--
LOOK AT ME! I AM
ADAM YOUR SON!

NO!...
NO

LOOK
AT ME

ADAM?
IT CAN'T
BE

OH ADAM! --Sob--
IT IS YOU ISN'T
IT? Sob!

MOTHER WHAT
HAVE THEY DONE
TO YOU?

I'D GIVEN UP HOPE,
BUT NOW CAN THIS
BE? YOU'RE THE
SAME EXACTLY
THE SAME AS
YOU WERE--

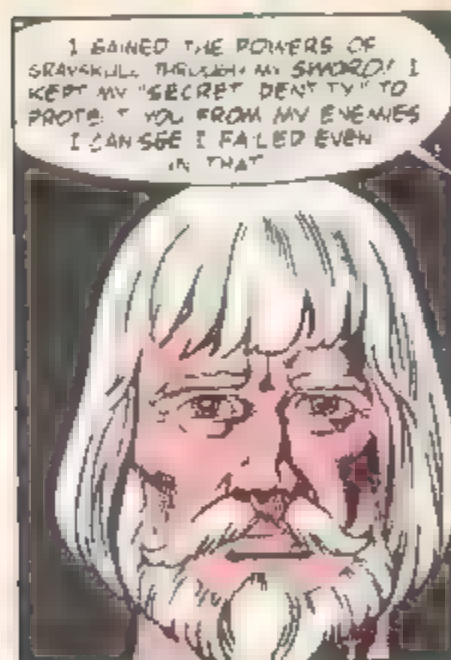
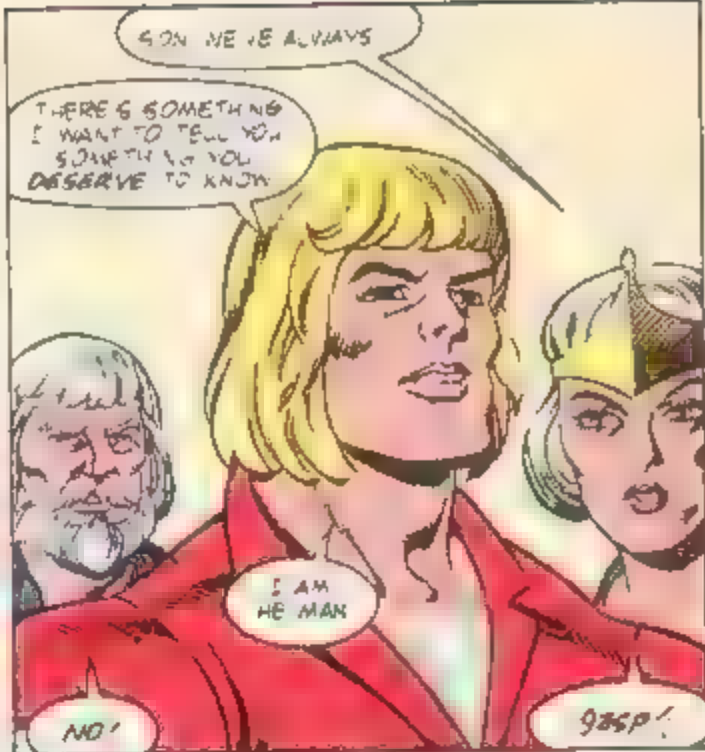
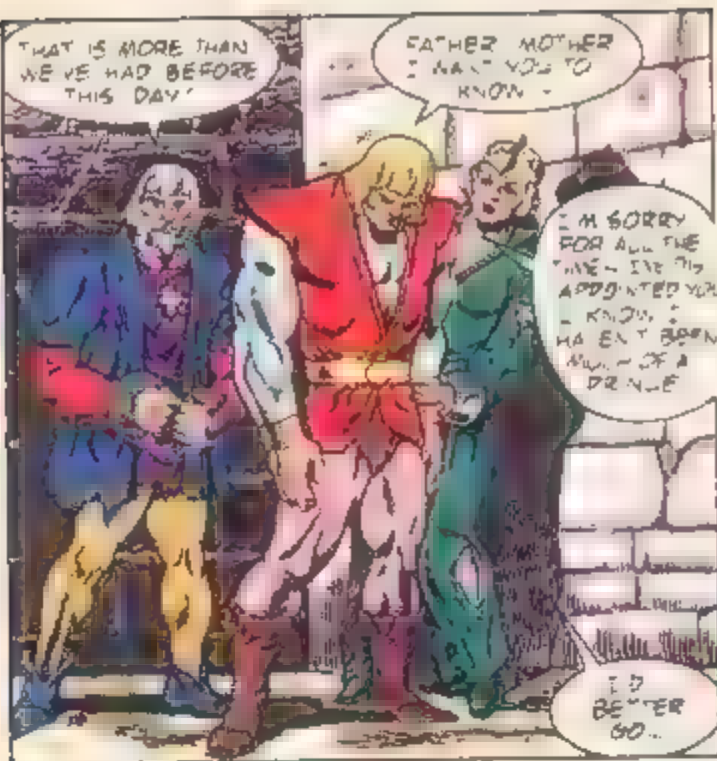
FATHER I KNOW THIS IS INCREDIBLE
BUT I'VE COME FROM THE PAST,
FROM THIRTY YEARS AGO. I
AM TRYING TO CHANGE WHAT HAP-
PENED. IF I SUCCEED, SKELETOR
CAN BE STOPPED BEFORE HE
CONQUERS ETERNIA!
I CAN STOP THIS
FATHER I CAN AND
I MUST!

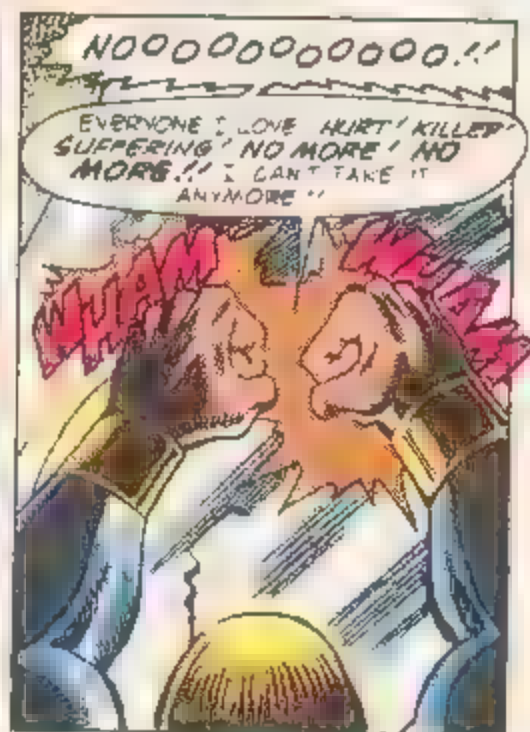
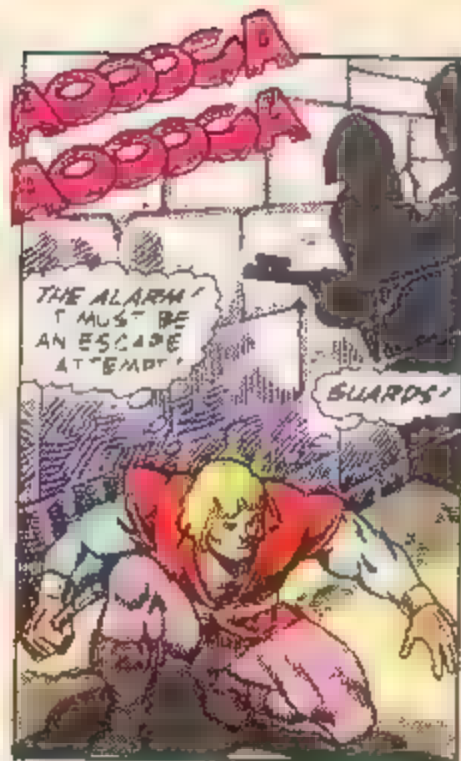
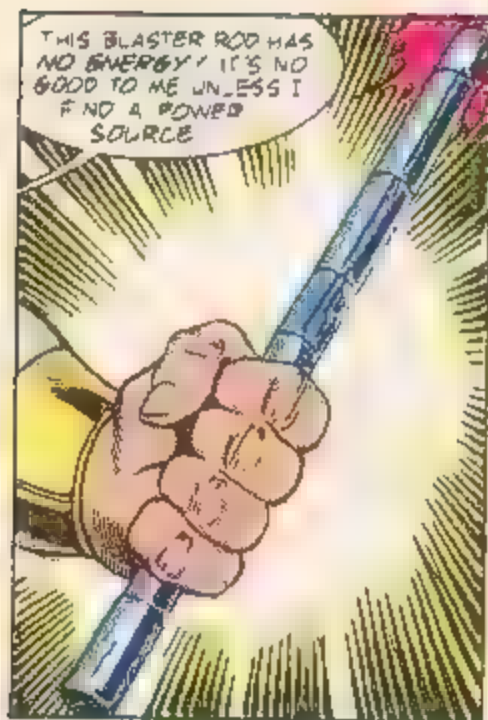
I BELIEVE YOU, MY SON
OUR TIME IS SHORT THE
GUARDS WILL PASS BY
SOON SKELETOR HAS
KEPT US HERE FOR THIRTY YEARS.
FOR MOST OF THAT TIME I'VE BEEN
BUILDING THIS, FROM STOLEN PARTS,
A WEAPON TO HELP US ESCAPE
TAKE IT!

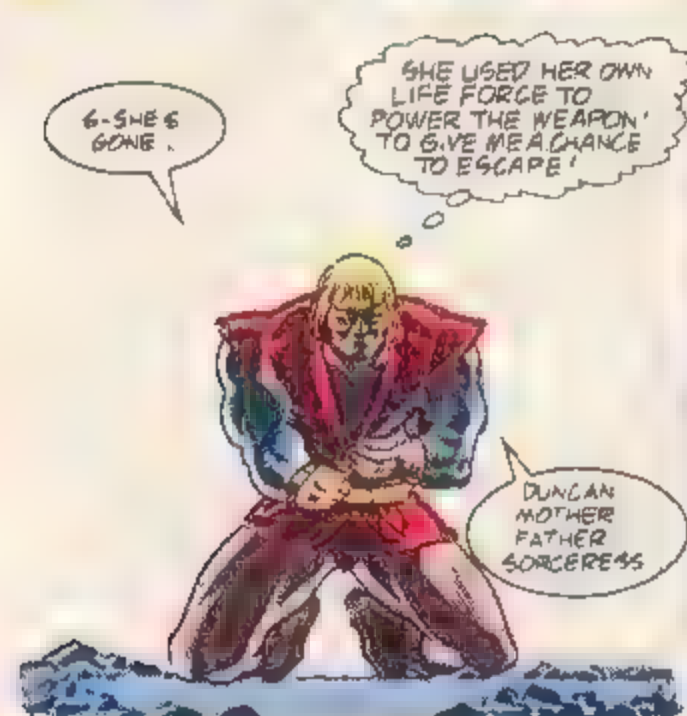
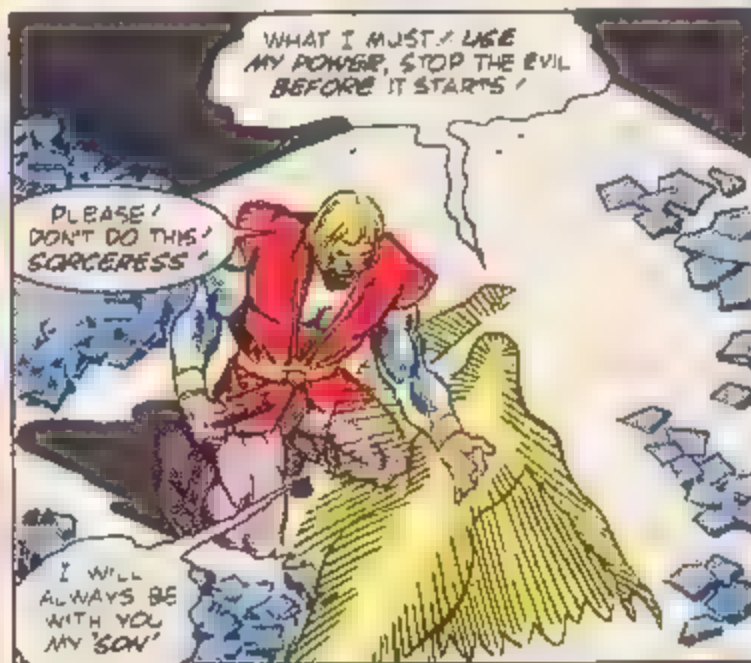
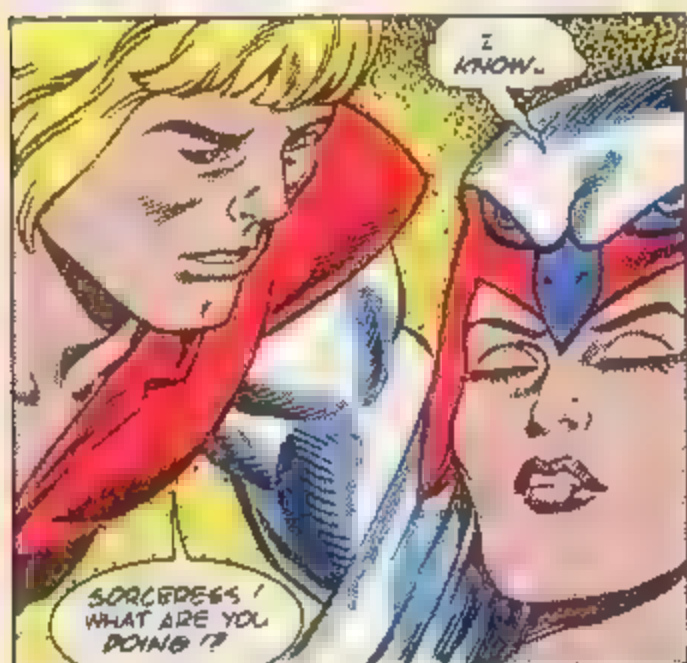
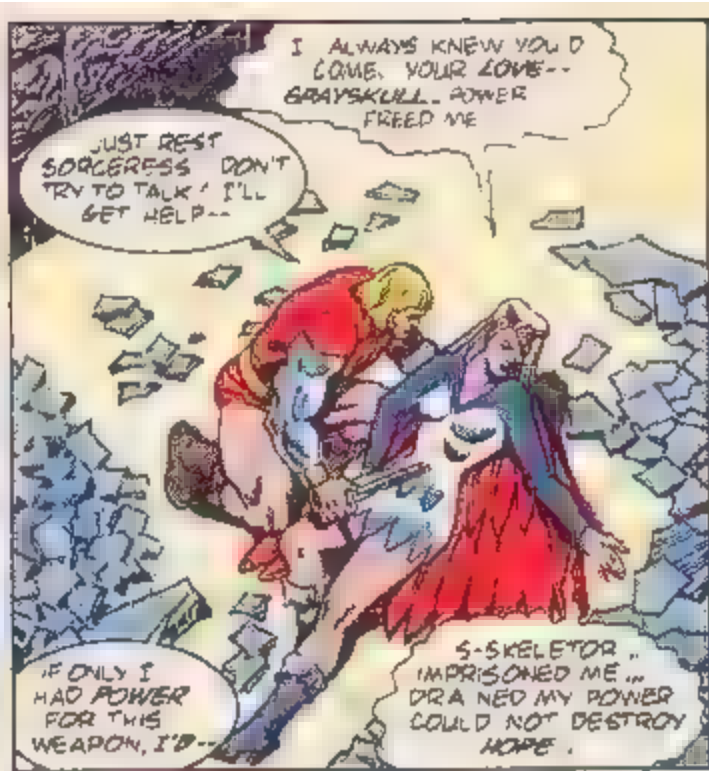
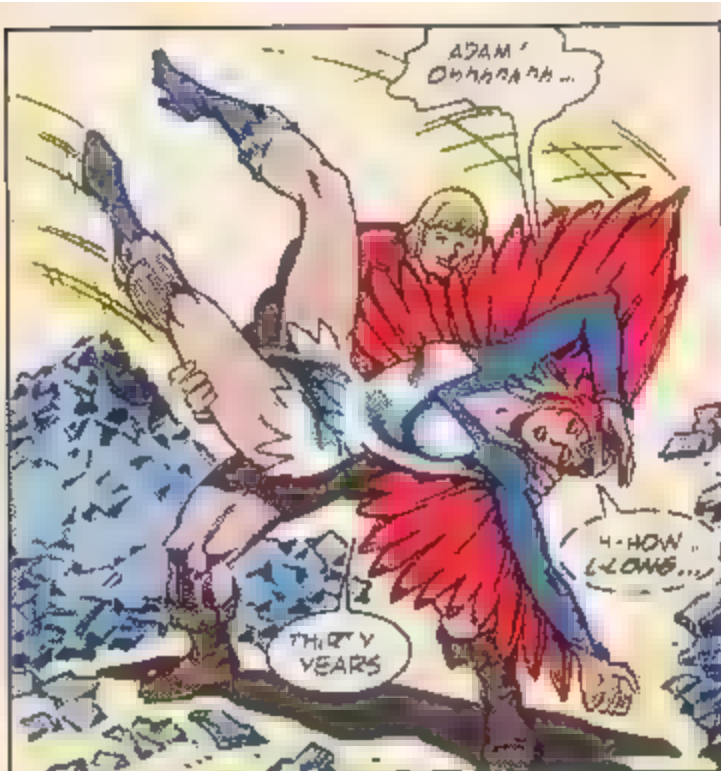
NO FATHER! I
CAN'T! YOU TWO
MUST COME WITH
ME!

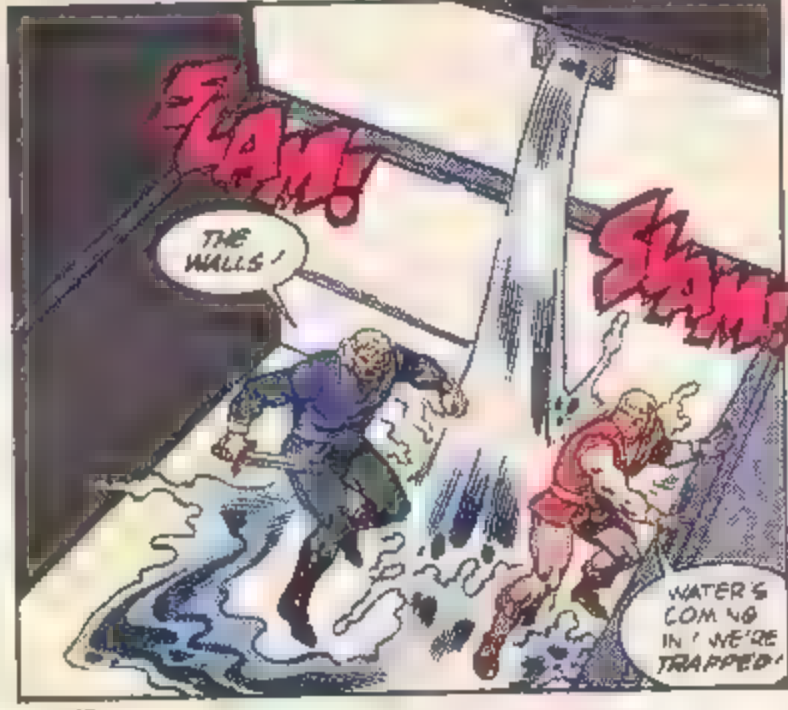
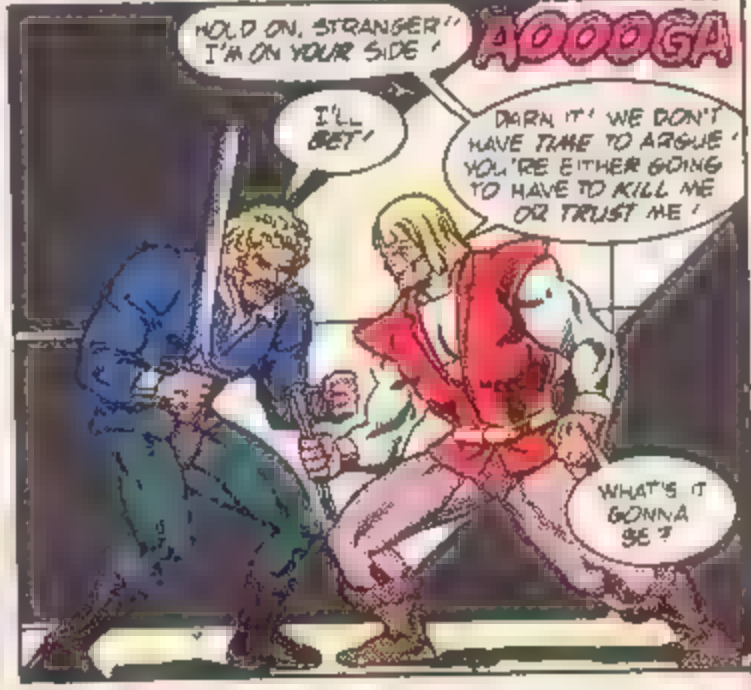
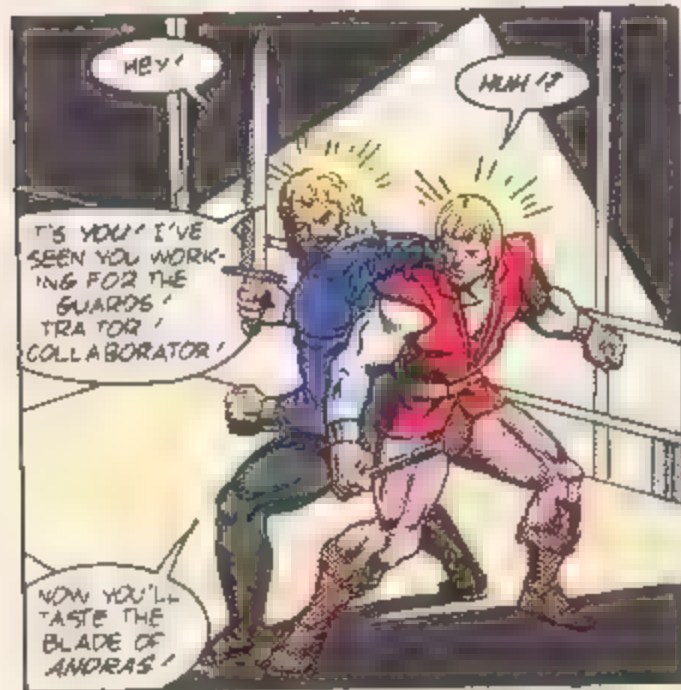
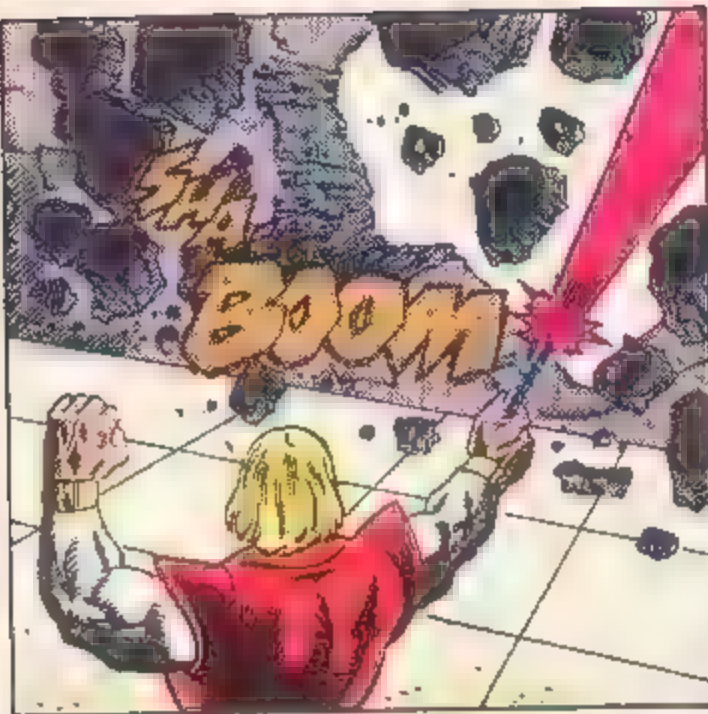
TAKE IT! WE
ARE TOO OLD
WE WOULD NOT
SUCCEED BUT
YOU SON, HAVE
A CHANCE! NOW
WE HAVE HOPE!

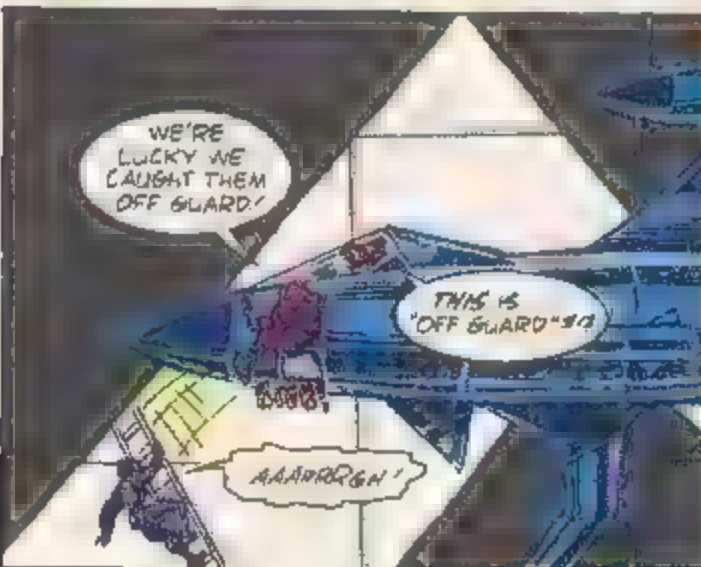
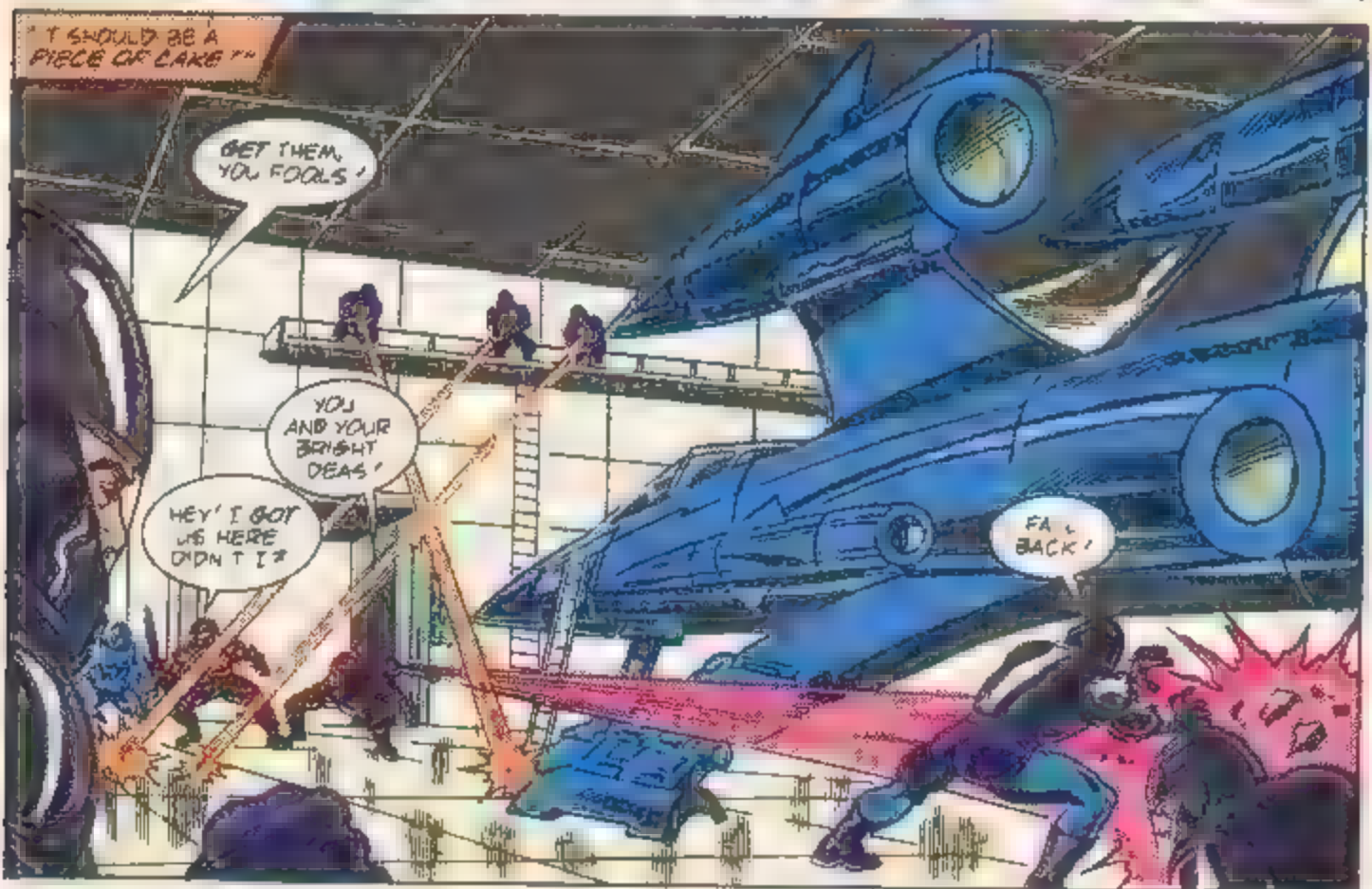
--THIRTY YEARS AGO

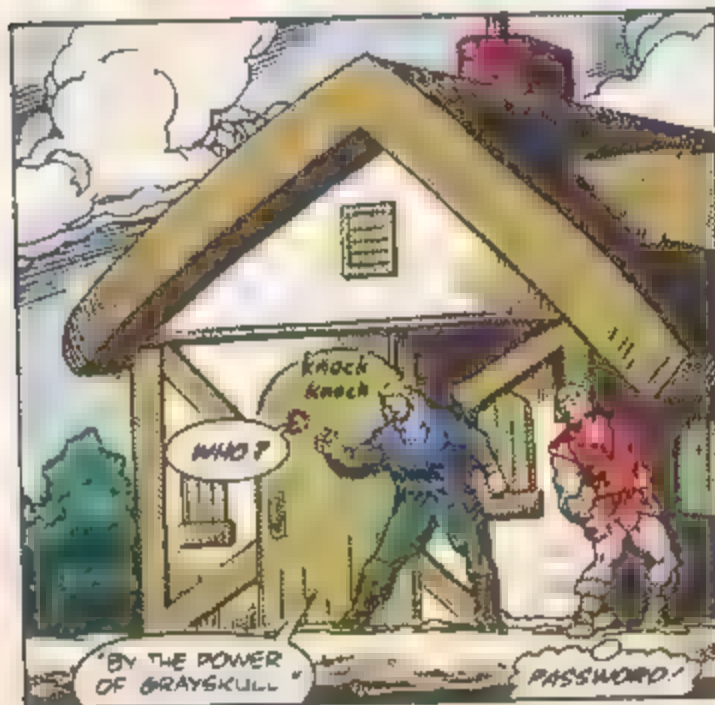
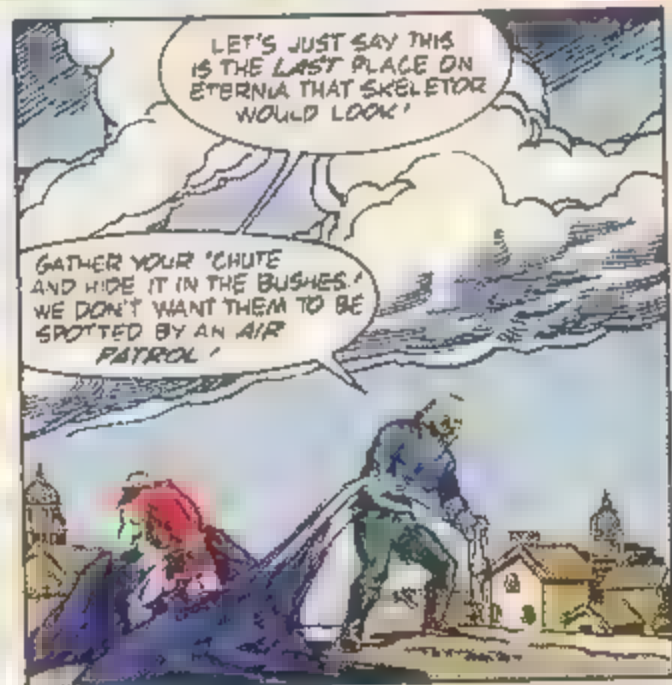
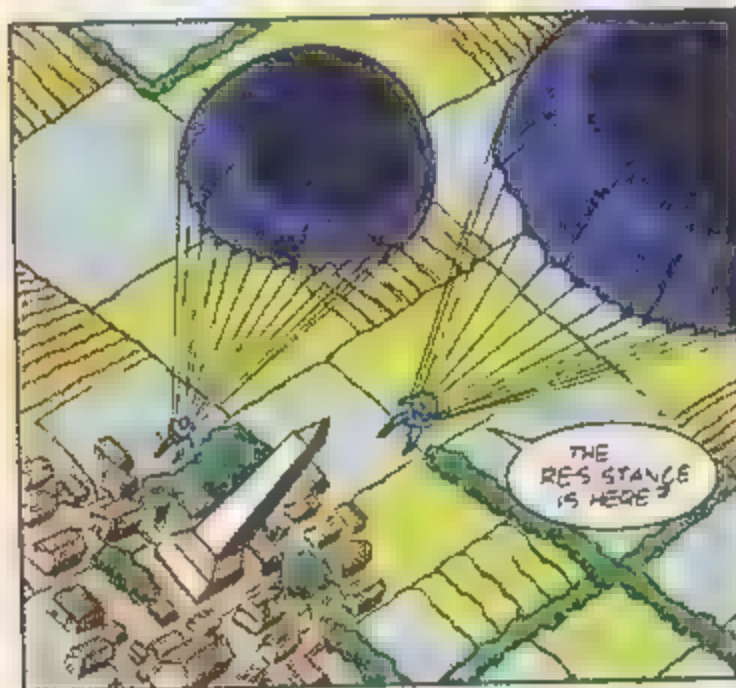
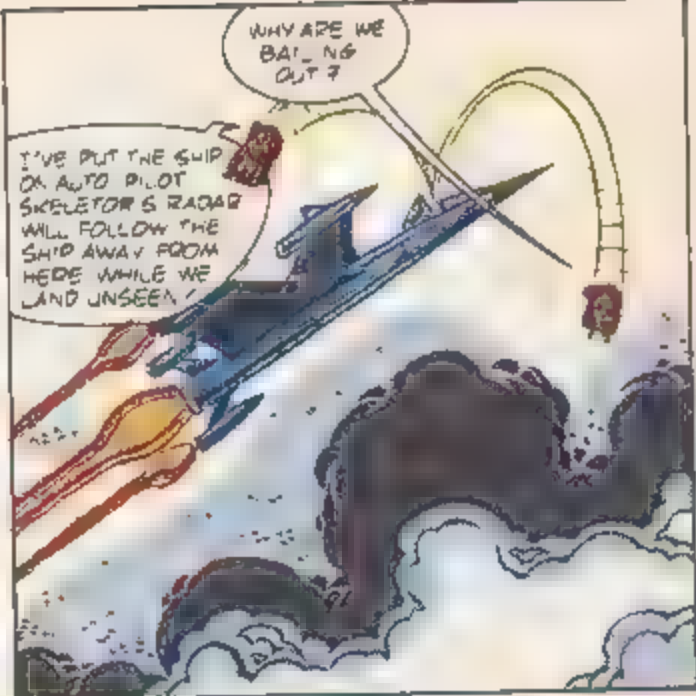
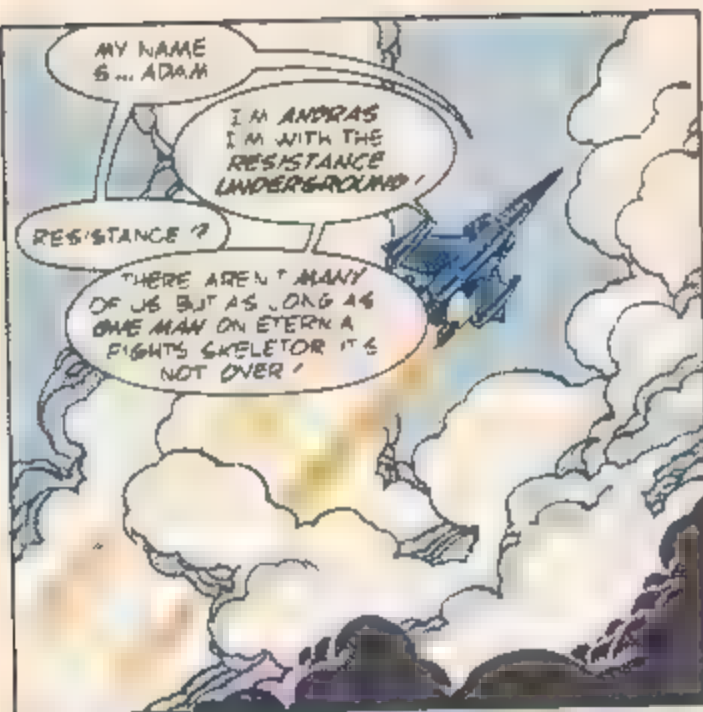






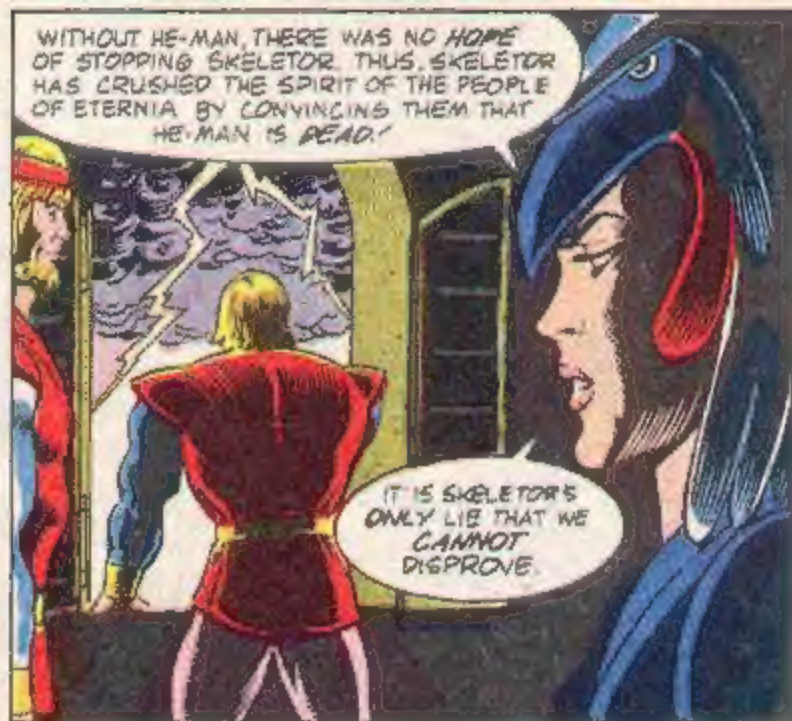














THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED, WITH RESPECT, TO ALEX RAYMOND.

NEXT:
THE ASSAULT
ON CASTLE
SKELETOR!